



Public Health Law

Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Menu of State Hand Sanitation Laws for Animal Contact Exhibits

Some animals can be carriers of pathogens that cause diseases in humans.¹ Animals at petting zoos and agricultural fairs (animal contact exhibits),² such as cows, sheep, and goats, can be carriers of pathogens, including gastrointestinal pathogens, such as *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*).³ Several *E. coli* outbreaks in the United States have been linked to animal contact exhibits in recent years.⁴ Disease outbreaks at animal contact exhibits can be prevented by washing hands properly with soap and water after contact with animals and by keeping food and beverages away from exhibits.⁵



To reduce disease outbreaks at animal contact exhibits, seven states have established hand sanitation laws for animal contact exhibits in their statutory or regulatory code.⁶ This menu assesses and provides examples of these laws, which include laws requiring hand sanitation stations and those that require related signage at the animal contact exhibits.⁷

For more information on gastrointestinal diseases from contact with animals, visit CDC's National Center for Emergency and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases' webpage, [Gastrointestinal \(Enteric\) Diseases from Animals](#). Additional information about prevention measures can be found in the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians' [Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2013](#).

Requiring Hand Sanitation Stations

Seven states—New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin—have established laws requiring hand sanitation stations near certain animal contact exhibits.⁸

- For example, **New Jersey** law requires that commercial farms that offer farm-based recreational activities, such as agricultural animal displays, petting areas, and pony rides, provide hand-sanitizing facilities for visitors in order to receive protections from nuisance and other actions under the state's Right to Farm Act: "Hand-sanitizing facilities shall be provided and readily available if an activity is offered in which visitors may have incidental or direct contact with



agricultural animals. Hand-sanitizing facilities include running water with soap, antibacterial hand wipes, waterless hand sanitizers, and/or other hand-washing stations. Visitors shall be advised to sanitize their hands after contact with agricultural animals.”⁹

- Under **New York** law, “[a]ll petting zoo operators shall provide and maintain at least one clearly designated hand washing facility for patrons and visitors to the establishment to wash or cleanse their hands upon exiting such petting zoo area.”¹⁰ New York law also provides that “[a]ll public establishments including, but not limited to, carnivals, fairs and amusement parks, . . . farms, and farmers’ markets . . . which feature displays of live animals that patrons may reasonably be expected to come into physical contact with for the purpose of touching, holding or petting shall provide hand washing or hand cleansing facilities for such patrons.”¹¹
- **North Carolina** law states that “[h]and-washing stations with soap, running water, paper towels and disposal containers shall be located within 10 feet of the exit of an animal contact exhibit, wherever feasible.”¹² North Carolina law further specifies that “[h]and-washing stations suitable for small children shall be available in the same area.”¹³
- **Pennsylvania** law requires “[a]n adequate hand-cleansing facility for adults and children shall be conveniently located on the animal exhibition grounds.”¹⁴
- Under **Utah** law, “[i]f poultry are housed in a public area, there must be signage that provides information on handling poultry safely to prevent human illness and hand cleaning materials must be provided.”¹⁵
- **Washington** law mandates that “[a]nimal venue operators . . . [p]rovide an accessible hand-washing station or alternative hand sanitizing method approved by the local health officer.”¹⁶
- In **Wisconsin**, the operators of petting zoos located in campgrounds must “provide a hand washing or a hand sanitizing station near the exit to encourage hand washing by patrons after handling animals.”¹⁷

Location of Hand Sanitation Stations

In addition to the requirement for hand sanitation stations near animal exhibits, some state laws specify further specify the precise location of these stations.

- For example, **New York** law requires hand sanitation stations at petting zoos to be “maintained at or within no more than fifty feet of the exit from such petting zoo area.”¹⁸
- **North Carolina** law specifies that hand sanitation stations must be “located within 10 feet of the exit of an animal contact exhibit, wherever feasible.”¹⁹
- **Pennsylvania** law states that hand sanitation stations must be “conveniently located on the animal exhibition grounds.”²⁰
- In **Wisconsin**, the hand sanitation station must be located “near the exit to encourage hand washing by patrons after handling animals.”²¹



Signs Indicating Location of Hand Sanitation Stations

Some state hand sanitation laws require animal exhibit operators to place signs indicating the location of stations.

- For example, **New York** law requires a sign at petting zoos that “indicate[s] the direction in which such handwashing or hand cleansing facility is located.”²²

- **North Carolina** law specified that “[a]n animal contact exhibit shall provide visible signage at the entrance and exit of the exhibit to educate the public regarding . . . the location of hand-washing stations.”²³
- Under **Pennsylvania** law, animal exhibit operators “shall post appropriate notices which designate the location of the hand-cleansing facility.”²⁴

Signs Recommending Hand Sanitation or Indicating Health Risks

Some state laws require animal exhibit operators to place signs that recommend visitors use hand sanitation stations after touching animals and/or that indicate the health risks of touching the animals.

- For example, **New Jersey** law requires that commercial farms that offer farm-based recreational activities, which include agricultural animal displays, petting areas, and pony rides, provide hand-sanitizing facilities for visitors and that “[v]isitors shall be advised to sanitize their hands after contact with agricultural animals.”²⁵
- **New York** law requires that “[e]very exit from a petting zoo area shall have a sign conspicuously posted that shall state, in a clear and legible typeface, the following: ‘Animals at petting zoos may carry germs and bacteria that cause disease. It is strongly recommended that persons wash their hands upon exiting the petting zoo area.’”²⁶
- In **North Carolina**, “[a]n animal contact exhibit shall provide visible signage at the entrance and exit of the exhibit to educate the public regarding:
 1. the fact that animal contact may pose a health risk;
 2. items that are prohibited in animal areas; [and]
 3. the identity of high risk populations, including:
 - a. the elderly;
 - b. children under the age of six;
 - c. women who are pregnant; [and]
 - d. people with an existing health condition.”²⁷
- Under **Pennsylvania** law, animal exhibit operators “shall post appropriate notices which . . . encourage the cleansing of hands after touching animals.”²⁸
- Under **Utah** law, “[i]f poultry are housed in a public area, there must be signage that provides information on handling poultry safely to prevent human illness and hand cleaning materials must be provided.”²⁹
- Animal exhibit operators in **Washington** must “[p]ost a prominent sign in a simple and easy to understand format for visitors to see before they enter the animal exhibit area which warns that:
 - i. Animals can carry germs that can make people sick, even animals that appear healthy;
 - ii. Eating, drinking, or putting things in a person's mouth in animal areas could cause illness;
 - iii. Older adults, pregnant women, immunocompromised people, and young children are more likely to become ill from contact with animals;
 - iv. Young children and individuals with intellectual disabilities should be supervised in animal exhibit areas; and
 - v. Strollers, baby bottles, pacifiers, and children's toys are not recommended in animal exhibit areas.”³⁰

Animal exhibit operators must also “[p]ost a prominent sign at each exit of the animal exhibit area reminding visitors to wash their hands.”³¹

- In **Wisconsin**, state law requires that campground petting zoo operators “post a sign at the hand washing or hand sanitizing station . . . with the following wording ‘For the health of our guests, hand washing or hand sanitizing is encouraged for all who have been in the petting zoo area.’”³²

Penalties

State hand sanitation laws also outline penalties for violation of the requirements established in the law.

- For example, under **New Jersey** law, commercial farms that fail to provide hand sanitation stations can lose protections available to them under the state’s Right to Farm Act: “This section, which is an agricultural management practice, sets forth the standards for on-farm direct marketing facilities, activities, and events that commercial farms must comply with to receive the protections of the Right to Farm Act (Act), N.J.S.A. 4:1C-1 et seq.”³³
- **New York** law states that “[a]ny operator of a petting zoo who fails to maintain a hand washing or hand cleansing facility and proper signage in violation of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount of up to five hundred dollars.”³⁴ New York law also states that an application for a permit to operate an agricultural fairground can be denied or revoked for failure to comply with applicable laws, which includes the requirement to maintain hand sanitation stations at petting zoos located within agricultural fairgrounds.³⁵ In addition, New York law authorizes fines for violations.³⁶
- Under **North Carolina** law, “[i]n addition to the denial, suspension, or revocation of an [animal exhibition] operation permit, the Commissioner may assess a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) against any person who violates a provision of this section or a rule adopted pursuant to this section. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Commissioner shall consider the degree and extent of harm caused by the violation.”³⁷
- **Pennsylvania** law allows the Department of Agriculture to “assess an administrative penalty of up to \$500 for each violation” of an animal contact exhibit hand sanitation requirement.³⁸
- **Utah** law provides that a penalty amount for violating a hand sanitation requirement “will be set by the [Department of Agriculture and Food] for amounts up to \$5,000 per violation, or if the citation involves a criminal proceeding, the person may be found guilty of a class B misdemeanor.”³⁹
- Under **Washington** law, “[a]ny person who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter or any lawful rule adopted by the board shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.”⁴⁰
- In **Wisconsin**, campground operators risk suspension or revocation of their permit to operate for violating hand sanitation requirements.⁴¹ Additionally, “[a]nyone who violates this section or any rule of the department under this section shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$250. Anyone who fails to comply with an order of the department shall forfeit \$10 for each day of noncompliance after the order is served upon or directed to him or her.”⁴²

To learn more about preventing diseases associated with animal contact exhibits, visit the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians’ [Animal Contact Compendium](#).

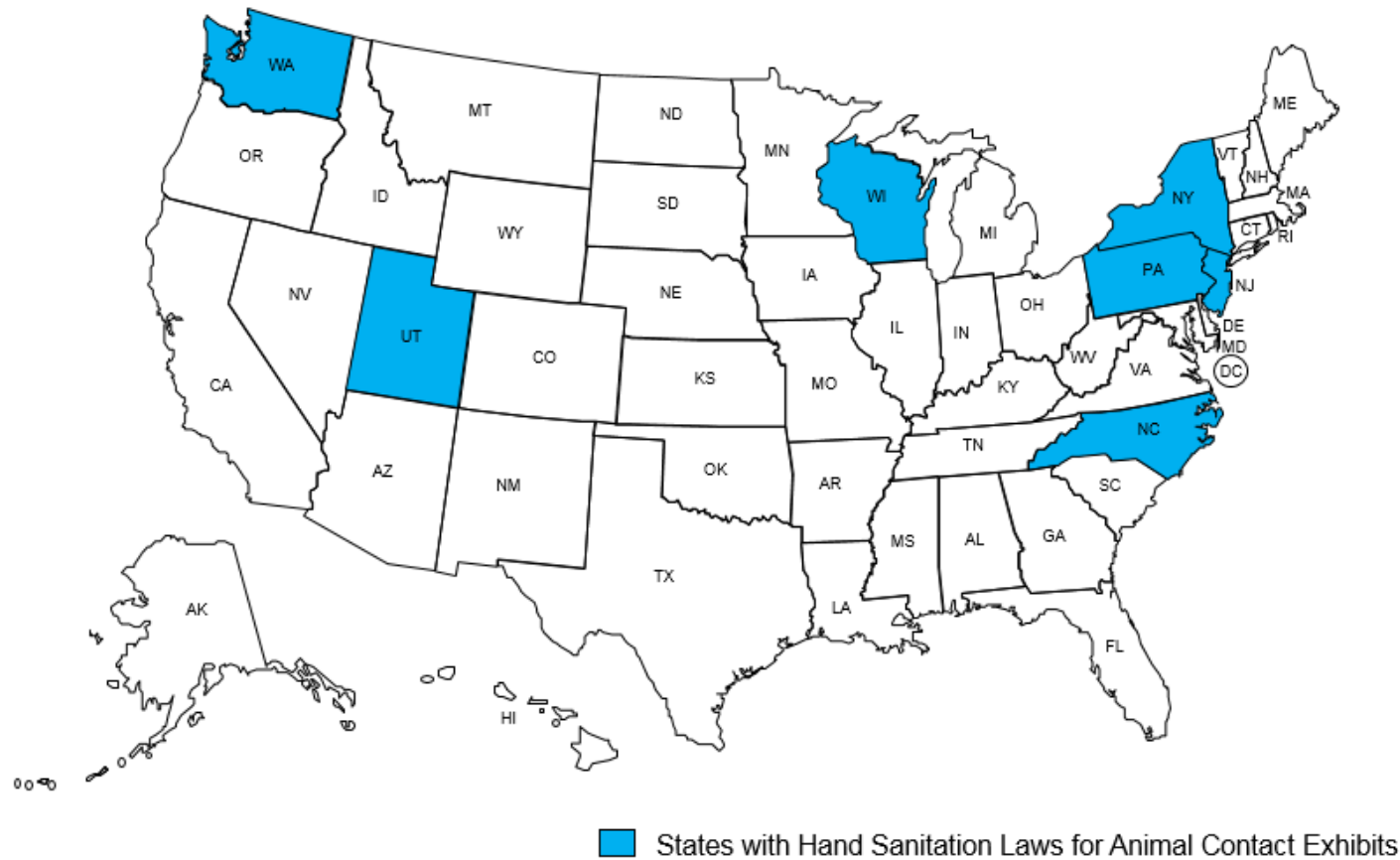
Acknowledgments and Disclaimers

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Appendix 1: Map of States with Hand Sanitation Laws for Animal Contact Exhibits



Appendix 2: Table of State Hand Sanitation Laws for Animal Contact Exhibits

State	Citations	Applicable Facilities	Handwashing Station Required	Location of Station	Hand Sanitation Sign: Indicating Location	Hand Sanitation Sign: Recommending Sanitation and/or Indicating Health Risk	Express Mention of Penalties in Animal Exhibit Section
New Jersey	N.J. ADMIN. CODE § 2:76-2A.13	Farm-based recreational activities at commercial farms, including agricultural animal displays, petting areas, and pony rides	Yes (handwashing standards recommended and required for commercial farms seeking to receive the protections of the New Jersey Right to Farm Act, N. J. STAT. ANN. 4:1C-1 et seq.)	Not specified	Not specified	Yes (does not specifically mention signs but requires that visitors be advised to sanitize their hands)	Loss of protections under the New Jersey Right to Farm Act: “This section, which is an agricultural management practice, sets forth the standards for on-farm direct marketing facilities, activities, and events that commercial farms must comply with to receive the protections of the Right to Farm Act (Act), N.J.S.A. 4:1C-1 et seq.”
New York	N.Y. MCKINNEY’S PUB. HEALTH LAW § 1311; N.Y. MCKINNEY’S PUB. HEALTH LAW § 12	Public establishments featuring animals, including carnivals, fairs, amusement parks, farms, and farmers' markets	Yes	Not specified	Yes	Yes	“Civil penalty of not to exceed two thousand dollars for every such violation”

New York	N.Y. MCKINNEY'S GEN. BUS. LAW § 399-ff	Petting zoos: "A place where a collection of animals are kept for the express purpose of viewing, touching, holding and petting by patrons and visitors of the establishment"	Yes	"At or within no more than fifty feet of the exit from such petting zoo area"	Yes	Yes	"Civil penalty in an amount of up to five hundred dollars"
New York	N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 10, § 7-5.1 - 5.15	Petting zoos at agricultural fairgrounds	Yes	"At any petting zoo and within 100 feet of all areas where the general public is allowed to come in contact with animals"	Yes	Yes (per N.Y. MCKINNEY'S GEN. BUS. LAW § 399-ff, which applies to petting zoos in the state; state law requires the recommendation of hand sanitation to patrons)	Agricultural fairground permit denial or revocation for violations; enforcement and penalty procedures outlined in New York's Public Health Law
North Carolina	N.C. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 106-520.1-7 2 N.C. ADMIN. CODE 52K.0101-0702	Animal exhibitions: "Any sanctioned agricultural fair where animals are displayed on the exhibition grounds for physical contact with humans" Animal contact exhibits: "Any exhibit at an agricultural fair where there are animals displayed for	Yes	"Within 10 feet of the exit of an animal contact exhibit, wherever feasible"	Yes	Yes	Class 1 misdemeanor: "In addition to the denial, suspension, or revocation of an operation permit, the Commissioner may assess a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) against any person who

		the purpose of petting, holding, feeding, or other physical contact by humans, including but not limited to, petting zoos, pony rides and poultry handling exhibits”					violates a provision of this section or a rule adopted pursuant to this section. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Commissioner shall consider the degree and extent of harm caused by the violation.”
Pennsylvania	3 PA. CODE § 2501-2504	Animal exhibitions, including agricultural fairs, petting zoos, “an event where animals are displayed on animal exhibition grounds for view and physical contact with humans, if the operator charges an admission fee for access to the animals,” and “an event where animals are displayed on animal exhibition grounds for view and physical contact with humans, if there is a retail food establishment on the grounds.”	Yes	“Conveniently located on the animal exhibition grounds”	Yes	Yes	“Administrative penalty of up to \$500 for each violation”

Utah	UTAH ADMIN. CODE R58-6; R58-19-4	Public exhibition of poultry: “Public show of poultry”	Yes	Not specified	Not specified	Yes	Fines up to \$5,000 per violation or the person may be found guilty of a class B misdemeanor
Washington	WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 246- 100-192; 246- 100-070	Animal venue operators: “A person furnishing a setting where public contact with animals is encouraged such as a petting zoo, county fair, or horse or pony rides”	Yes	Not specified	Not specified	Yes	“Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter or any lawful rule adopted by the board shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.”
Wisconsin	WIS. ADM. CODE DHS § 178.03, 178.18, 178.08, 178.07; WIS. STAT. ANN. § 254.47	Petting zoos at campgrounds: “a collection of animals that can be touched or fed”	Yes	“Near the exit”	Yes (the sign is posted at the station)	Yes	Suspension or revocation of permit: “Anyone who violates this section or any rule of the department under this section shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$250. Anyone who fails to comply with an order of the department shall forfeit \$10 for each day of noncompliance after the order is served upon or

							directed to him or her.”
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¹ CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, [Gastrointestinal \(Enteric\) Diseases from Animals](#) (last visited Mar. 22, 2016).

² For definitions of various animal contact exhibits in state law, see, e.g., N.Y. MCKINNEY’S GEN. BUS. LAW § 399-ff(a); N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 10, § 7-5.1(b); 2 N.C. ADMIN. CODE 52K.0501(1)-(2); 3 PA. CODE § 2501; WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 246-100-192(2); WIS. ADM. CODE DHS § 178.03(25).

³ CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, [Places: Gastrointestinal \(Enteric\) Diseases from Animals](#) (last visited Mar. 22, 2016); Kathryn Curran et al. [Notes from the Field: Outbreak of Escherichia coli O157:H7 Infections Associated with Dairy Education Event Attendance—Whatcom County, Washington, 2015](#), 64(42) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 1202–3 (Oct. 30, 2015).

⁴ Curran, *supra* note 3; Lisa M. Durso et al., [Shiga-toxigenic Escherichia coli O157:H7 infections among livestock exhibitors and visitors at a Texas County Fair](#), 5(2) *VECTOR BORNE ZOONOTIC DISEASES*, 193–201 (Summer 2005).

⁵ CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, [Stay Healthy at Animal Exhibits](#) (last visited Mar. 22, 2016).

⁶ New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. See appendix 2 for citations.

⁷ CDC’s Public Health Law Program conducted a search for state statutes and regulations that establish animal exhibit hand sanitation requirements using WestlawNext, a legal research database. Searches were conducted in all states and the District of Columbia between March 17, 2016 and April 1, 2016. Laws related to the sanitation standards for agricultural operations or stockyards, and food processing or manufacturing were not within the scope of this assessment. The findings of the legal assessment were distributed to the public health veterinarians in the 50 states and the District of Columbia for review.

⁸ See appendix 2 for citations.

⁹ N.J. ADMIN. CODE § 2:76-2A.13(m)(5)(iv).

¹⁰ N.Y. MCKINNEY’S GEN. BUS. LAW § 399-ff(2). See also, N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 10, § 7-5.14(a)(2).

¹¹ N.Y. MCKINNEY’S PUB. HEALTH LAW § 1311(1).

¹² 2 N.C. ADMIN. CODE 52K.0501(a).

¹³ *Id.* at 52K.0501(b).

¹⁴ 3 PA. CODE § 2502(a)(2).

¹⁵ UTAH ADMIN. CODE R58-6-5(10).

¹⁶ WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 246-100-192(3)(a).

¹⁷ WIS. ADM. CODE DHS § 178.18(1).

¹⁸ N.Y. MCKINNEY’S GEN. BUS. LAW § 399-ff(2). See also, N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 10, § 7-5.14, which requires hand sanitation stations at petting zoos located within agricultural fairgrounds to be located “within 100 feet of all areas where the general public is allowed to come in contact with animals.”

¹⁹ 2 N.C. ADMIN. CODE 52K.0501(a).

²⁰ 3 PA. CODE § 2502(a)(2).

²¹ WIS. ADM. CODE DHS § 178.18(1).

²² N.Y. MCKINNEY’S GEN. BUS. LAW § 399-ff(3). See also, N.Y. MCKINNEY’S PUB. HEALTH LAW § 1311(2), which requires signage for certain public establishments featuring animals.

²³ 2 N.C. ADMIN. CODE 52K.0301(4).

²⁴ 3 PA. CODE § 2502(a)(2).

²⁵ N.J. ADMIN. CODE § 2:76-2A.13(m)(5)(iv). Note that the provision does not specifically mention signs.

²⁶ N.Y. MCKINNEY'S GEN. BUS. LAW § 399-ff(3). *See also*, N.Y. MCKINNEY'S PUB. HEALTH LAW § 1311(2), which requires signage for certain public establishments featuring animals.

²⁷ 2 N.C. ADMIN. CODE 52K.0301(1)-(3).

²⁸ 3 PA. CODE § 2502(a)(2).

²⁹ UTAH ADMIN. CODE R58-6-5(10).

³⁰ WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 246-100-192(3)(b).

³¹ *Id.* at § 246-100-192(3)(c).

³² WIS. ADM. CODE DHS § 178.18(2).

³³ N.J. ADMIN. CODE § 2:76-2A.13(a). Per N.J. STAT. ANN. § 4:1C-2(e), "It is the express intention of this act to establish as the policy of this State the protection of commercial farm operations from nuisance action, where recognized methods and techniques of agricultural production are applied, while, at the same time, acknowledging the need to provide a proper balance among the varied and sometimes conflicting interests of all lawful activities in New Jersey."

³⁴ N.Y. MCKINNEY'S GEN. BUS. LAW § 399-ff(4).

³⁵ N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 10, § 7-5.3(c), (e).

³⁶ *Id.* at § 7-5.5(a)(2), which authorizes enforcement and penalty procedures outlined in New York's Public Health Law. Per N.Y. MCKINNEY'S PUBLIC HEALTH LAW § 12(1), "any person who violates, disobeys or disregards any term or provision of this chapter or of any lawful notice, order or regulation pursuant thereto for which a civil penalty is not otherwise expressly prescribed by law, shall be liable to the people of the state for a civil penalty of not to exceed two thousand dollars for every such violation."

³⁷ N.C. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 106-520.3A(f). *See also*, *Id.* at § 106-520.7 which states that "[a]ny person who violates any provision of G.S. 106-520.1 through G.S. 106-520.6 is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor."

³⁸ 3 PA. CODE § 2504(a); 3 PA. CODE § 102.

³⁹ UTAH ADMIN. CODE R58-19-4(2).

⁴⁰ WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 246-100-070(2).

⁴¹ WIS. ADM. CODE DHS § 178.08.

⁴² *Id.* at § 178.07; Wis. Stat. Ann. § 254.47.